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Atty. Dkt. No. 081356-0232

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nobutaka NAKASHIMA et al.
Title: NOVEL EXPRESSION VECTOR SUITABLE FOR EXPRESSION
OF RECOMBINANT PROTEIN AT LOW TEMPERATURE
Appl. No.: 10/524,193
Filing Date: 2/11/2005
Examiner: Ileana Popa
Art Unit: 1633
Confirmation Number: 4133

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed February 14, 2007, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-17, 19-23 and 25-31 drawn to an expression vector and a transformed bacteria comprising the vector.

Further, the species of *Rhodococcus R. erythropolis* is elected. The claims readable on the elected species are 4-17, 19-23 and 25-31.

Finally, the species of vector: pTip-LNH1 having a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID No. 110 is elected. The claims readable on the elected species are 29-31.

These elections are made without traverse.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 9 March 2007

By S. A. Bent

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